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Chapter 26 Battle Tendency

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JUST... A FEW METERS LEFT...!

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ESPE-CIALLY HIM...

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HEH... WHAT AN INTER-ESTING SITUATION.

SHUN... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?! HOW DO WE HAVE THE UPPER HAND...?

KIROMARU COULD BE YOUR TRUMP CARD.

SHH! IT'S COMING...!

WHAT?! WHAT ARE YOU...

SHUN?!

...SHUN?!

THAT'S NOT A FIEND. IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT THAT WAY...

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YOU'RE STARTING TO GET IT, AREN'T YOU?

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...

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REALLY! THAT'S GREAT! LET'S HURRY TO THE BACK EXIT!

...THE FIEND HAS PASSED US BY. IT SEEMS TO BE HEADING OUTSIDE WITHOUT NOTICING US.

!!

WAH!

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YES!

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LET'S GO!

WHAT? WELL, *OBVIOUSLY*, IF IT NOTICED, IT WOULD'VE KILLED US.

DO YOU *REALLY* THINK THE FIEND DIDN'T NOTICE US...?

HE'S NOT A FIEND...

WE WERE SO BLIND... I CAN'T BELIEVE WE PASSED UP SO MANY PERFECT CHANCES...

THERE'S NO DENYING IT WILL BE HARD, BUT IN THIS SITUATION, MAYBE...

IF NOT A FIEND, THEN...!!

?!

WE HAVE JUST ONE WAY LEFT TO KILL THE FIEND...!!

?

GOD... WHAT DO YOU SPEAK OF...?

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO FIND IN TOKYO SO BADLY THAT YOU LOST MORE THAN HALF OF YOUR MEN?

BEFORE I TELL YOU, KIROMARU... I NEED TO FULLY TRUST YOU.

ANSWER ME THIS.

A-AND THAT IS...?!

IF WE HAD DISCOVERED NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL, WE WOULD IN ALL LIKELYHOOD HAVE DEPLOYED THEM.

BUT I HOPE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND HOW WE DIFFER FROM SQUEALER.

...I SHALL CONCEAL NOTHING. I WAS IN SEARCH OF A WEAPON OF THE PREHISTORIC CIVILIZATION WHICH WOULD ALLOW US TO DEFEAT THE HUMANS.

SO THE GIANT HORNET COLONY ALSO WANTED TO OVERTHROW THE HUMANS LIKE SQUEALER DID?

IT WAS AN EFFORT TO PREVENT THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR COLONY AT ALL COSTS!

THIS WAS NOT DUE TO OUR AMBITION! WE WERE MERELY PREPARING A DEFENSIVE STRATEGY IN FEAR OF BEING OBLITERATED BY THE HUMANS ON A WHIM!

WE MUST ALSO MAKE THE DECISION.

LIKE TOMIKO, WHO WOULD SACRIFICE CHILDREN FOR THE SAKE OF THE VILLAGE...

AND... YES...

...

TO AVOID DE-STRUC-TION...

I GET IT. I TRUST HIM...

SAKI?

IF HE *IS* ONE, THEN HOW COME SQUEALER AND HIS COLONY ARE STILL FINE?

SO HE'S NOT A FIEND? HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?

...WELL...

IT SHOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO DOMESTICATE A FIEND.

IT WAS A BIG MISTAKE OF OURS TO TAKE HIM FOR A FIEND!

HUH?

...I DON'T THINK THEY'RE INEF-FECTIVE.

BUT IF HE IS NOT A FIEND, THEN WHY HAVE THE RESTRAINT TO KILL HIS OWN KIND, AND THE ACCOMPANYING DEATH FEEDBACK THAT WOULD KILL HIMSELF, BEEN RENDERED INEFFECTIVE?

WELL, YEAH, BUT WHAT DOES THAT...

WHEN HE WAS LOOKING AT THE MIRROR, IT SEEMED THAT HE THOUGHT HIMSELF TO BE A QUEERAT, RIGHT?

...WAIT A SEC... IS *THAT* HOW THIS IS...?

!!

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YOU GOT IT...

BUT AGAINST QUEERATS ..!!

HIS ATTACK SUPPRES-SION DOESN'T WORK AGAINST HUMANS,

HOW COULD THIS BE?! I SHOULD HAVE NOTICED THIS SOONER...!!

ヤ

IT ALSO BECAME AWARE OF ME WHEN ITS FOOTSTEPS GREW SLOW EARLIER...

...

WAIT...! SO DOES THAT MEAN...

IF YOU THINK BACK ON IT, DURING THE BATTLE WITH THE ROBBER FLIES, THE FIEND ONLY STOLE ITS OPPONENTS' WEAPONS, ALLOWING ITS ALLIES TO KILL THEM FREELY.

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN BECAUSE HE *COULDN'T* KILL QUEERATS HIMSELF...!!

FUCK!

THE ANSWER HAS BEEN SO CLOSE THIS WHOLE TIME!! HOW DID WE NOT SEE THIS?!

ドカッ

YES...

IF KIROMARU HAD RUSHED TOWARDS THE FIEND, WE COULD HAVE KILLED HIM...

WE STILL HAVE TIME.

BUT WE NOTICED *BEFORE* DYING FOR NOTHING...!

BUT I HAVE TO KILL HIM.

TO PREVENT US FROM BEING ANNIHILATED...!

I HAVE TO MAKE THE DECISION, LIKE TOMIKO, TO SACRIFICE HIM.

AND...

HE'S NOT A FIEND.

HE WAS MERELY KILLING HUMANS FOR HIS FALSE FAMILY. HE MAY HAVE BEEN BURNING WITH JUSTICE FOR ALL WE KNOW.

HE DID NOTHING WRONG.

The decision to lose another great friend!!

FOR THAT, WE FIRST NEED TO KNOW WHERE THEY ARE RELATIVE TO US.

YES ...

YOU SAID THERE WAS STILL A WAY TO KILL THE FIEND...

IF I PLUNGE IN, THEY COULD GET ME WITH GUNS. IF YOU TWO GO, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO FEND THEM OFF...THAT SHOULD PUT US IN A REASONABLE POSITION.

THERE'S TWO QUEERATS HIDING UP AHEAD...HE'S ABOUT FIVE METERS BEHIND THEM.

FOR MY PLAN.

I HAVE A DIFFICULT REQUEST FOR YOU TWO...

...

BEING DOWNWIND, THEY CAN ALSO CLEARLY DETECT OUR SITUATION.

I NEED YOU AS A SACRIFICE...

...

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...

...

YEAH ...

LET US BEGIN.

...

OKAY... ACCORDING TO PLAN...

YEAH.

YES.

WE START ON THE COUNT OF TEN.

10...
9...

8...

BUT...

KIRO-MARU ...

I HAD NO IDEA WE WERE LEFT WITH SUCH A SIMPLE METHOD!

HAHA-HAHA! WONDER-FUL!

THIS TIME, I HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT WHO DIES.

...YOU HAVE MY WORD.

ONE OF US WILL HAVE TO DIE FOR THIS PLAN. CAN A KIND SOUL LIKE YOU SEE IT THROUGH, SAKI?

SAKI...!

SATORU... RESIGN YOURSELF. OR DO YOU WISH TO PUT TO WASTE ALL WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THIS ENDEAVOR?

...

I KNOW I'M WRONG TO SAY THIS, BUT I DON'T LIKE IT!!

...LET'S NOT DO THIS!! TO MAKE SUCH A SACRIFICE FOR THIS PLAN...

WAS IT A LIE THAT YOU WISHED TO CONSTRUCT THE FUTURE WITH SAKI?!

THIS IS MOST CERTAIN!!

BUT... BUT...!!

KIROMARU!! YOU'RE GONNA DIE, YOU KNOW?!

6...
5...
4...
1!
2!
3!

!!

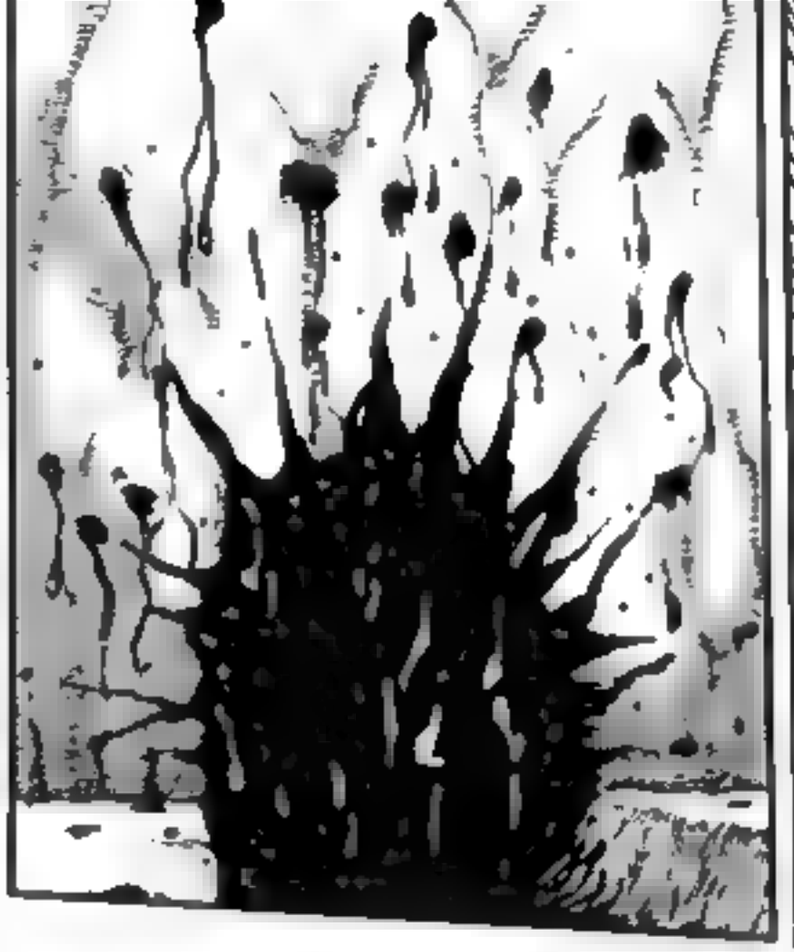
C'MO-OOO-OON!

EAT SHIT!!

?!

GIK?!

GIGYA PYAK!



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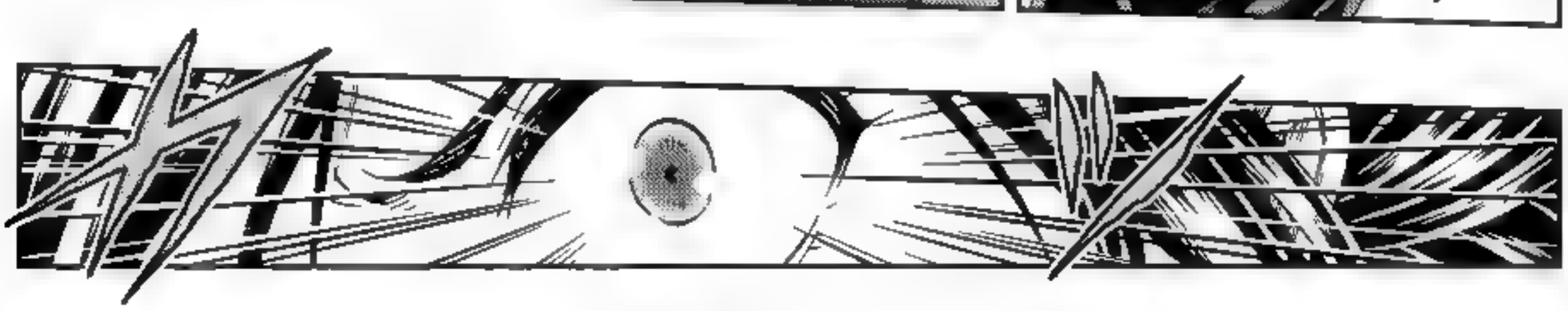

SQUEALER HASN'T NOTICED WHAT WE'RE GOING FOR...!!

EVERYTHING IS GOING TO PLAN SO FAR...!

WE'D...
S'POSE...

GYA-
AAA-
AAA-
AAA-
AAA-
AAH!!

AAAA!!

...

...

SATORU...

IF THIS ENDS IT ALL, THEN IT WILL LIKELY COME TO KILLING ALL QUEERATS.

ASK ANY-THING!

I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONSIDER-ATION.

BUT... I ALSO HAVE SOME-THING TO ASK OF YOU TWO.

OUR HOPE... AND OUR MOTHER.

BUT PLEASE, SAVE ONLY THE GIANT HORNET COLONY'S QUEEN. THE QUEEN IS EVERYTHING.

I'M SURE YOUR COLONY WILL BE RESTORED ONCE AGAIN!!

WHATEVER HAPPENS, WE WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO SAVE YOUR QUEEN!

OKAY! YOU HAVE MY PROMISE!

AND MINE.

...IN THAT CASE, I HAVE NO MORE REGRETS.

HEH HEH HEH...JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE, AND THAT HERETIC MEGALO-MANIAC...

WILL BE BLOWN TO SMITHER-EENS.

GH... AK...

I'M SO EXCITED, I CAN'T HOLD IT IN

KIRO-MARU ...!

...!!

HHYOO...
HAHH...

GAH...

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GAH...GHYA...
AAAAAAA...!

AGGHA-
AAAAA-
AAAAA-
AAAAA!

THE DEATH FEEDBACK...!!

HE REALLY-THOUGHT HIMSELF TO BE A QUEERAT...

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ガ"

ΛΛΛΛ-
ΛΛΛΛ...
ΛΛΛ...

UGH...

MOKH...
KEH...

...HE WOULD HAVE BEEN SO LOVELY.

IF HE WAS BORN NORMALLY IN THE VILLAGE...

HE WOULD'VE GROWN INTO SUCH A BRIGHT YOUNG BOY...

MY... MESSIAH...

ME... SSIAH.. SAVIOR...

EVERONE I LOVED HAS DIED ONE AFTER ANOTHER.

I'VE CLIMBED OVER SO MANY CORPSES...

THIS IS SO STRANGE ...

WE STILL HAVE A LONG, LONG FIGHT AHEAD OF US TO CHANGE THE FUTURE.

LET'S HEAD BACK TO TOWN. END THIS WAR.

WHY...

PRAY THAT I KEEP LIVING.

BUT I STILL

...

...HUH?

LEND US A HAND.

SUSU-MU.

...OH, DID HE...?

PLEASE.

WE COULD BUILD OUR FUTURE TOGETHER.

INUI'S LAST WORDS WERE THAT WITH A DISTINGUISHED MAN LIKE YOU,

EVEN A FUTURE THAT CAN GREET HARUKA WITH PRIDE...

YOU SURVIVED, AND YOU CAN CREATE ANY FUTURE YOU WANT.

SHO...

...

THAT'S WHAT I'M LIVING FOR.

LET'S TALK ABOUT WHAT THAT FUTURE WILL LOOK LIKE.

HAH...

HAH...

!!

THAT'S SUICIDE! IF THE FIEND FINDS YOU, YOU'RE TOAST!

I WANT TO SAVE THE PRISONERS AND THE CHILDREN TOO, BUT...

WE'VE MANAGED TO STAMP OUT A LOT OF THE ENEMY FORCES WITH GUERILLA WARFARE, BUT WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF PEOPLE WHO CAN FIGHT, TOO!

WHAT'D YOU SAY?!

WE DEFEATED THE FIEND! WE HAVE ALSO CAPTURED THEIR RINGLEADER, SQUEALER!

WAIT! WE'RE HUMAN!

WHO GOES THERE?

パー!

パー!

WE NEED TO ORGANIZE AN "ORDER RESTORATION COMMITTEE" AND TAKE BACK KAMISU #66!

HUH?

DO YOU HAVE A REPRE-SENTA-TIVE?

YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE! YOU CAN REST AT EASE, NOW!

HAAH... HAH...

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フラ

WE NEED TO GATHER EVERYONE WHO'S IN HIDING!

DON'T LOWER YOUR GUARD!

GET OUT MORE SIGNALS!

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HOORAY!!

OOH! A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES!

YOU HAVE MY THANKS! I'M SAKI WATANABE, I REPRESENT THIS TOWN.

SIMILARLY... THE BEST OF KOUMI #95 IN CHUBU...

THE EMERGENCY RELIEF SQUAD OF TOWN #84 FROM THE HOKURIKU INTERIOR IS HERE TO RESPOND TO A REQUEST FOR HELP.

YOU ARE... TRULY THE REPRESEN-TATIVE?

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...QUITE THE YOUNG ONE, YOU ARE...

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OH... SUSUMU TORIGAI... THERE'S A FAMILIAR FACE...

BWAHAHA! I SEE! WELL, THAT WAS RUDE OF ME!

YES, SHE IS.

SHE IS A TALENTED WOMAN WHO HAS BEEN APPROVED BY TOMIKO ASAHINA AS HER SUCCESSOR.

ARE YOU TRYING TO UNIFY THIS BROKEN VILLAGE AND BECOME A WAR HERO?

DON'T THANK ME.

SUSU-MU...

...
RIGHT!

LADY TOMIKO WOULD'VE DONE BETTER. GET YOURSELF TOGETHER!

SATORU
...

DON'T CHASE THEM TOO FAR! THE PRIORITY IS LOCATING CASUALTIES!

YES!

GATHER ALL OF THE BODIES IN ONE PLACE!

TAKE BACK THE TOWN CENTER! CLEAR THE RATS FROM THE AREA!

OF COURSE!

CAN I JUST WATCH FROM THE SIDE...?

LEADER! YOUR ORDERS!

THE ENTIRE QUEERAT ARMY IS ADVANCING, CHOOSING DEATH IN BATTLE OVER SURRENDER!

ATTENTION! WE HAVE SUCCESS-FULLY RESCUED THE BABIES AND THE P.O.W.'S!

...

WIPE THEM OUT!!

YEEE-EEAA-AAHH!!

NICE WORK.

I'VE SECURED THE GIANT HORNETS' QUEEN.

.....

ALSO... LOOKS LIKE IT DIDN'T WORK OUT FOR ANYONE IN MY FAMILY.

YES...

I GUESS THAT'S THE END OF IT, HUH...

One week later

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SQUEALER... DO YOU RECOGNIZE US?

...

WHAT DID YOU...! HE DIED BECAUSE YOU TURNED HIM INTO A KILLING MACHINE AS PART OF YOUR HEINOUS PLOT!

...YOU'RE THE ONES WHO KILLED OUR MESSIAH AND CAPTURED ME IN TOKYO.

WE WILL SOON HOLD A TRIAL FOR YOU. BUT BEFORE THAT...

THERE'S SOMETHING WE REALLY WANT TO ASK YOU.